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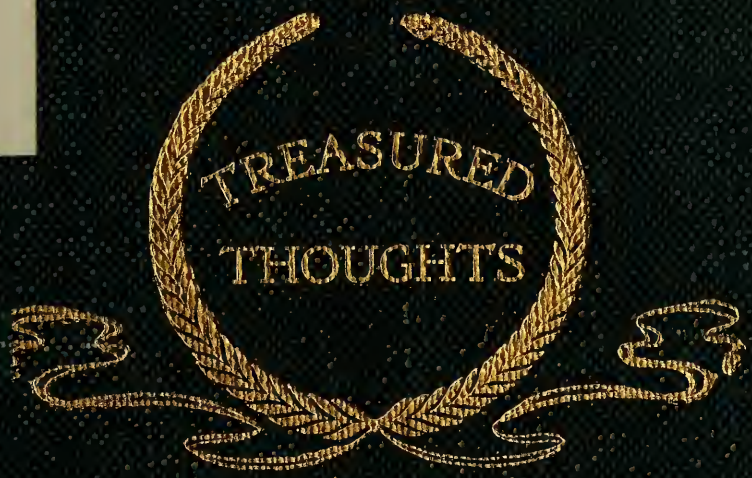

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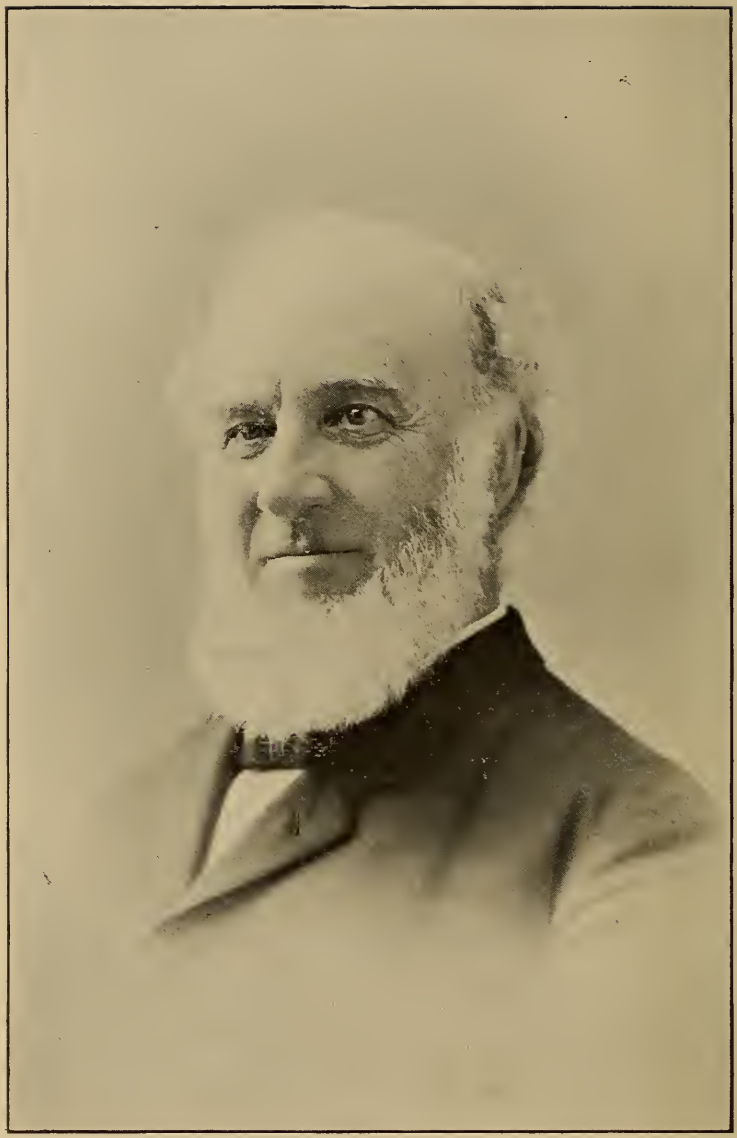

Treasured Thoughts

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"He held aloft the torch of Truth
That showed the better way;
His life became the light of men,
And changed their night to day.

For him we weave no fading bays,
We crown him with our love;
For life so rich and fair we praise
The Lord of Life above."

— REV. CHAS. G. AMES.

OCT 26

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PREFACE.

The selections in this little book have been made from sermons and talks of Rev. S. H. Winkley, who has now completed his fiftieth year as pastor of Bulfinch-Place Chapel.

It is our hope that the truth, in all its simplicity and beauty as shown in his own words, may in this way be a daily help and comfort to all who already know and love him, and through them passed on to others; for, as he has said: —

"Let us comfort others with the comforts that comfort us."

A. F. B.

Boston, August,
1896.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

"Samuel H. Winkley was born in Portsmouth, N. H., April 5, 1819, where he remained until his fifteenth year, and where he passed through the ordinary course of grammar and high school studies. During these years he had also given more or less service in three different stores.

"The inner life being the real life, it is of more consequence than any mere incidents of outward experience. Mr. Winkley was born into a religious society that was strongly Calvinistic, and into a home that was nominally so; but as there were no trammels put upon his early thinking, or upon his frankly uttering and comparing his thoughts with those of his brothers and friends, it was impossible to avoid the tendency to many-sidedness. So far as business training was concerned, each store in which the boy worked had its own characteristic influence upon him; but to one employer, an honest Scotchman,

Mr. Winkley owes more for aid in establishing his own standard of thorough honesty and moral consistency than perhaps to any other person.

"From his eighth year Mr. Winkley was an interested attendant upon the meeting for religious inquiries. Having been trained in the then common idea of sudden conversions, and not being able, though a diligent seeker therefor, to realize any such instant change, he continued with unabated interest to hope for it until his fourteenth year. The hymns that he had learned, together with the theological atmosphere he breathed, led him to think with dread of the doom which awaited the unconverted after death. In his fourteenth year, during a revival, he came to the conclusion that no 'conversion' was to be allowed him, and after a great deal of thought and feeling he decided simply to ask pardon for all the errors of the past, and to consecrate his future life to the love and service of God and man, — leaving all else to the Heavenly Father. A man may grow sceptical concerning theological views, he may even become a positive unbeliever; but no one can question the reality of such an experience as this. He was soon after received into the Orthodox church, where he continued to be interested in Sunday-school work, in tract distribution, and in other such missionary effort as a boy may engage. Soon after his union with the church he left home.

"For the next five years, — that is until his twentieth year, — Mr. Winkley was in different stores in Boston, Providence, and Portland. He was then called back to Portsmouth by the death of his eldest brother. After a short stay in his native city he returned to Boston and became a salesman in a wholesale dry-goods house, boarding with a relative in Charlestown, — in every place keeping up his activity in Sunday-school work. It was in connection with a mutual-instruction class in the Orthodox Sunday-school in Charlestown, that he was led diligently to study the New Testament in its bearing upon Calvinistic doctrines. Finding no sufficient evidence in the Gospels or the Epistles that Jesus or the apostles taught election or foreordination, the personality of the Holy Spirit, the deity of Christ, or vicarious atonement, he rejected these doctrines and accepted those that seemed to him at once more rational and more Scriptural. This change was wrought very unwillingly, for all his religious sympathies were with the Orthodox. It cost him a great many hours of diligent and prayerful study; but the views that then seemed to him true, and have so continued for fifty years, compelled him to part theological company with his old friends (though it was not at once a denominational separation) and to declare himself not a Trinitarian.

"The next few years of Mr. Winkley's life were

spent in Providence. He continued to work with the Orthodox as a tract distributor and in holding neighborhood meetings. He attempted to form an association of young men of all denominations for spiritual culture and for general Christian work. From this circle he was practically excommunicated at its first regular meeting, by the members adopting, through the counsel of older persons, a decidedly Trinitarian platform. He then united himself with the Unitarians. He taught in one of their Sunday-schools, and helped to gather the first ministry-at-large Sunday-school in another part of the city, becoming its superintendent. He now gave nearly all his leisure time to the furtherance of this successful attempt to establish a ministry-at-large work. As a result of this he was finally led to take the advice and avail himself of the co-operation of interested friends, and to fit himself to enter the Theological School at Cambridge. From this School Mr. Winkley was graduated in 1846, at the age of twenty-seven, and immediately received and accepted an invitation of the BENEVOLENT FRATERNITY OF CHURCHES OF BOSTON to become its Minister-at-Large, having in charge the Pitts-Street Chapel, in which relation, though afterward occupying the new chapel in Bulfinch Place, he has remained fifty years.

"During his theological course and the first few years of his ministry, Mr. Winkley passed through

the mental experience to which every candid mind leaving Calvinism is liable, as well as those profounder tests of Christian faith which great afflictions always bring. From that time to this there has been a growing conviction in his mind, strengthened by constant contact with a large number as well as a great variety of persons in every walk of life, that Christianity as taught by Christ is the essential need of humanity, by which the race must be eventually advanced to the realization of its highest hopes; and that instead of mere creed and ritual — as important as these may be in their way — and the saving of one's self, either here or hereafter, there must be the fulness of that active love which seeks in all things the pleasure of the Heavenly Father and the best interests of all His children. Working steadily to the realization of this object has not only rendered his long ministry delightful in its heart relations, but also abundantly blessed in its results to individuals and families, — financially, intellectually, socially, and spiritually making his church and Sunday-school a band of co-workers, and his congregation a delightful family.

"It is very difficult to make one, unacquainted with the inner workings of Bulfinch-Place Chapel, understand the near and dear personal relation which Mr. Winkley has sustained to his people for these fifty years. As a good father watches over his family,

so has Mr. Winkley watched over his people. He has guided the young, warned the erring, encouraged the down-hearted, cheered the afflicted, given counsel to those needing such, confirmed those who were in the right path and by his magnetic influence and beautiful personal example, under all circumstances, been an inspiration and stronghold to young and old.

"Never until 'the secrets of all hearts shall be revealed,' will it be known how many could say of this pastor of fifty years: 'You were my savior, my deliverer; you opened my spiritual eyes and showed me the way of *Life*!'

"His people love him and have loved him with a very tender and abiding love which time cannot efface, — which eternity will strengthen.

"Mr. Winkley's influence has by no means been confined to the chapel in which he has so long ministered; it has gone out far and wide. He has had a happy, God-given faculty of impressing his life upon the lives of others. This is the noblest kind of literature, — not book-printing, but soul-printing. A collection of Mr. Winkley's works in this direction would fill a pretty large library. The faithful, noble, and consecrated ministry of the pastor of Bulfinch-Place Chapel deserves on earth the cordial recognition and benediction which it is sure to get in heaven."

Treasured Thoughts

January 1

If you will not love God entirely, at least let Him have supreme control over you. You will pass on into the New Year wishing everybody happiness and mean it; not a happy first of January, but a happy year. Do you mean it? Is there enough in your heart to mean it? Do you care enough for God? Then let us enter with this spirit the new year as if it were our last year.

January 2

You want this new year to be a happy one. Do not *try* to be happy. You are about to do something God does not want you to do. You are to say, "I will not do it." No matter about the next time; do not do it *now*, because it is God's wish. Then the year will be a happy one.

January 3

Let us enter the new year with more faith. Have you confidence enough in God to know that what seems most wrong must be all right? Instead of making the best of things, some people dwell upon the wrong; talk it up; torment themselves and their neighbors with it. If there were only more love in the world, more kindness, if people would only consider others, then we should have happiness.

January 4

Everything we have in this world that is worth having is from God. What are we doing in return? All He asks of us is to do His wish, and He never asks us to do anything that is not best.

January 5

Each time we eat the morsel of bread at the Communion, let us once more renew our membership in Christ's Sunday-school class; once more say, "Our Father, nearer and dearer to Thee, e'en though it be a cross that raiseth me."

January 6

If you cannot say "God," say "Right," for Right is God, since God is Right. But you cannot act for the right unless you act for God, who is the Source of the right.

January 7

Must a man comprehend eternity before he can use time? Must he comprehend infinity before he can use space? Must he comprehend God, whom he knows as the Eternal Source of his being? Certainly not! He understands enough in regard to time and space to use such portion of them as he needs. He has but a finite look of the Infinite. He may not find God though he travel a thousand million of miles. But when he thinks, when he feels his heart beat, when he lifts his arm and uses the power in it, — then he finds in him the Power in whom he thinks, and moves, and has his being.

January 8

Sin is indifference toward Infinite Love. A man is freed from sin whenever his whole

inner life is clean; whenever his intent and purpose are on the right side. The evidence of being freed from sin is a Christian Life.

January 9

So live that everybody who comes in contact with you will be able to say that your tone of voice is just right, your manner is kind, everything about you indicates that you must have been with Christ and acquired His disposition. Then peace will abound on the earth.

January 10

We have to advance in order to hold our own. There is no true existence without growth.

January 11

No matter how white the lie when it leaves your mouth, it gets black enough in time.

January 12

Physical things are physically discerned. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. There is no way of knowing what love is

except by loving; no way of knowing what love and trust to God are except by possessing them.

January 13

In our homes there are ugly dispositions. The tendency is to stand up for ourselves. Instead of being patient and trying to win the others to the right, we are trying to make out that "I am right." But that is not the spirit of Christ. Now, when shall we learn a wiser lesson than that? When we understand the Father. When we get to that point, our one thought will be, how we can serve these persons. And the Father is right there and in some way says to us, "Inasmuch as ye do it unto the least of these, my children, ye do it unto me."

January 14

Selfishness separates in a very cruel way. What we need in our homes is interest in each other, not as a family, but as individuals. Let our homes breathe the atmosphere of peace and kindliness. You say you have tried and failed. Well, "let the dead past bury its dead." It is

to-day, *to-day!* Only one moment at a time! We may fail again and again. No matter. "Renew the battle every day and help divine implore."

January 15

Jesus knew that his being lifted up on the cross would do more in the world than all the coronations he could have had.

January 16

Morality is a correct relation which one person sustains to others. If a man lived on an island by himself he could have no morality. When his morality is inspired by interest in others, then he has philanthropy. Philanthropy is a positive, actual interest in others. It is character regulated to please those about us. It is more than mere honesty, for instance, — there is generosity in it.

January 17

The first step in growing into a relation with God is to prove an awakened interest in Him by acknowledging a past indiffer-

ence. God will accept our apology — that is, He will accept us.

January 18

Piety is interest in God. Philanthropy is interest in man. Our interest in character never becomes what it ought to be until we get interested in God. Some people come to God with great emotion and fervor, but with no inclination or determination to do what he asks them to do. Piety is not emotion; it is not a creed; it is simply interest in God.

January 19

Do not be afraid to do the small things. A joke is sometimes the sweetest thing in the world.

January 20

It has been said of the Sermon on the Mount that it is mere morality. Well, if it is, the living of it is the way the angels are made.

January 21

There is a great difference between forgiveness and having all the conse-

quences of wrong-doing wiped out. A teacher can forgive a pupil for having neglected his studies, but his forgiveness does not make the pupil a fine scholar ; he still has to suffer the consequences of neglecting his studies.

January 22

As we go farther up the scale of right living we become interested in our enemies, and when we bless them there is a feeling of grandeur, of manliness, which lifts us mountains high.

January 23

God so over-rules everything we have in the way of difficulties, afflictions and trials that the man who uses them rightly can say, "All things (*do*) work together for good."

January 24

People order things from God as they would from a shop, and then when they do not receive them they become sceptical as to prayer. If they realized the object of prayer they would not lose faith. Prayer is talking with God.

January 25

I would have the Sunday used to get light, to get knowledge as to how to perfect character, how to interest ourselves in our neighbors, how to make life exactly what God wants us to make it.

January 26

Law pervades everything. Because of this law we inherit a great deal of mischief such as disease, etc. If this were not true, we could not calculate about anything. The Infinite Wisdom knew exactly how to arrange this at the start. If we could not inherit the mischief we could not inherit the good which comes to us.

January 27

Why should we not comfort others with the comforts that comfort us?

January 28

"Three times three are nine." "Love your enemies." Both of these are eternal truths from God. Why have any more

solemnity about one, than the other? Why not practise one as well as the other?

January 29

God is our Father and whatever He has planned from the remote past is not planned by a mere machine or law-giver, but by a Father, and so we have faith that He will over-rule all things for the best.

January 30

Our world comes out of our life and our life comes out of what we welcome into it ourselves. It is not the *much*, but the *kind* of things a man seeks that makes *life*.

January 31

The object of worship is to come together and sing "Nearer, dear Father, to Thee," and to feel the nearness and to grow into the nearness every day that it may go on for all eternity.

February 1

Nine-tenths of our actions are based upon faith. The actual knowledge we have of the affairs of life is very limited.

February 2

The obstacle between you and perfect peace is the want of perfect faith. Faith is confidence in the dark. Intelligent faith is trust with a reason. The man who has an intelligent faith is a calm, peaceful man.

February 3

The trusting child of God is at peace; the sceptical child, in trouble. The trusting child feels quite sure that if he could see the thing as God sees it, he would will it as God wills it.

February 4

We cannot pile money high enough to compare it with one single heart filled with affection.

February 5

The more Jesus was the Son of Man the more He was the Son of God. Let us take Jesus as our Sunday-school teacher, and let each one of us reproduce His life.

February 6

We are sure of God's presence. We are sure of His personal interest because He works in no two persons alike.

February 7

If you and I want to do the wisest thing with one hour in each Sunday of the week, we shall not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but shall turn to the right hand and left, and say, "Come into the house of the Lord and we shall have peace. Our lives shall be fountains of blessedness; our homes shall be happy." Here is a good and sufficient reason why we should come together for one single solitary hour on Sunday, to learn to sing love-songs to God, to breathe our little prayers to Him, to awaken in ourselves and in others an interest in Him, so that

we can say, "Nearer, my God, to Thee," and wherever we shall go we shall be children of God.

February 8

We may enjoy a sunset and understand all the science of its production; how the rays through the moisture of the air, etc., cause it; but that is quite different from feeling that the Loving Power is back of it all, giving it to us, as well as the power to enjoy.

February 9

To treat self well, to care for others as for other selves, and to sustain the right relation to God is to live the Higher Life.

February 10

Christ would have us serve people in whatever way they need. Not only should we serve our friends, but strangers, — enemies, if we have any. Just as soon as people understand by doing and living out "Love your enemies" they know what is meant by "The pure in heart see God," for the selfishness goes out of them. They

see that God is love and that he that loveth knoweth God.

February 11

God speaks to us and speaks to us distinctly, too. When we are hungry it is his expressed wish for us to eat. If we eat or drink to excess we find by the results that he is entering a protest. If we intelligently listen and wish to be guided by Him, we cannot misunderstand Him.

February 12

The meaning of the cross is this: As Christ was willing to lay down his life, so we should be willing to make any sacrifice that comes in our way; willing to deny ourselves all that is unchristian. Christ's suffering on the cross has been the inspiration of many people who have suffered for the sake of teaching goodness in the world.

February 13

A tendency, a thought, a feeling, which we may have in the wrong direction, are all guarantees of our freedom. But when

we *cherish* any of these, then we are sinful. The character is formed by the way we choose to gratify or use the tendencies, thoughts and feelings.

February 14

God protests by consequences when we do wrong, and pleads with us through the beauty of a sweet life to follow that example.

February 15

God so loves mankind that He is constantly asking that he may give Himself to His children. He only waits for the door to open.

February 16

A good-tempered person having the energy to always keep good-tempered, in spite of everything, is much stronger than an ill-tempered person.

February 17

Unless a person is filled with heaven he will not find any heaven hereafter.

February 18

Some people in the midst of affliction, when bearing trial after trial, are so full of peace and gladness, cheerfulness and sweetness, that we say, "The kingdom of heaven is here."

February 19

The dear Father is always patient. We may be ignorant of him; live in the world without Him. We may be simply bipeds in the world, not knowing that we are children of the Eternal Father; yet He is patient, waiting to put a new thought in our minds, a new longing in our hearts.

February 20

If you choose to remain in hell, get as many others into heaven as possible, and you will find yourself going in on the tide.

February 21

If, as people are drawn to God they will yield to his influence, they will worship in spirit and in truth.

February 22

How can a man be a bad citizen who bears love to God and his neighbor? Whatever he can do for his country, whatever he can do for his family or his neighbor, he will delight to do.

February 23

If a person has faith only as small as a grain of mustard seed, and shares it with some one else, he will find his faith grow.

February 24

We cannot find a thing that Jesus ever taught which, if we take the spirit of it into our lives, will not work well. There is nothing like experience to give you the test of all the teachings of Jesus.

February 25

Everybody has and knows their own sorrows and trials the best. If we can only get into the Father's arms, as a little child gets into its mother's arms, and mother kisses the spot and makes it well; if we will only feel that in the Father's arms

all is well, and bear a song away, then we will understand faith.

February 26

One of the grandest prayers ever offered is that which Jesus offered, "May we all be one as the Father and I are one."

February 27

We may deny the miracles of the loaves and fishes and all the other miracles, but we cannot deny the miracle of the benevolence of Christ's love.

February 28

God made us to be the best physically, mentally, spiritually. When disease comes into a family God is more sorry than we are. How could He prevent the child from being sick and taken away? You ask him to do a miracle if you ask him to continue the child under such circumstances. Do you love your child? Would you do him an injury? Suppose you loved him one thousand times more than you do, would you kill him? Well, God

loves your child infinitely more than you do.

February 29

Jesus revealed the power of man to rise above all sorts of afflictions up into the life which never asks a question as to whether anything is to be won or lost, but takes every opportunity to run God's errands of love and bless everybody.

March 1

What makes a bad temper? Looking out only for Number One, and in a very bad way. The very moment there comes in an interest in some one else, the bad temper will be gone.

March 2

Christ considered that the truest love to the Father was love to the Father's children.

March 3

There is no difference between love to an enemy, love to a friend, or love to God. The difference is in the relation sustained.

March 4

The Father will overcome all things for the right. When He made the world He

knew what He was doing. His plan is just as fresh today as it was yesterday. God is not working by machinery.

March 5

Divine Providence means faith in God and not in the event; faith that He is able and wise enough and good enough to lay a plan and execute it, whether we see it to the best or not.

March 6

If God is to explain to us everything he does, where is our trust? We should then walk by sight. The question is, is God good? If He is, we can trust Him. If He is bad, then I would not try to trust Him. If you can discover in any way that God is good, that He cares for you as an individual, then trust Him; but do not ask Him to do impossible things. How are you going to have faith in God without realizing His goodness? What makes you see? God is giving you the power. He is in you this very moment, giving you the power to see and hear and exercise all your faculties. Can you get hot and cold

water out of the same fountain? If you see that in ninety out of one hundred things God is seeking your best interest, then you ought to trust Him in the other ten things that you cannot understand. We certainly have good reason for our faith.

March 7

When we have done what we can,— not when we *succeed*, perhaps, but when we attempt,— if we listen we shall hear the Father saying, "Well done, well done, thou art my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." That is heaven enough!

March 8

We are in the race course. We have made some progress, though we have not reached the goal. We cannot keep out of sight of people. They will find us out. They recognize our weak points and our strong points. This ought to increase in us more ambition. What joy, what gladness, to be able to say at the end of life that we have done the thing that has carried joy into people's hearts, and that we have confirmed some people in the right.

March 9

A scholar cannot be one for a specified time and then be an ignoramus. So a person who loves you must love you everywhere. If a person loves God supremely, he must do everything to the glory of God. Everything will indicate his intense interest in the Father.

March 10

The aim of the church is to make you exactly like Christ; to fill your mind and heart with the thought of Christ; to make you a Jesusite. Christ did not come to be served, but to serve — to give his life as a ransom for others.

March 11

We find we have little time for study and the things we delight to do, and this teaches us to use our time properly.

March 12

You are simply called upon to take things day by day. Act to-day. You can stand it for to-day, can't you? You are

not called upon to trust Him for to-morrow. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Sufficient unto the forenoon, the half-hour, if need be. You can stand anything, minute by minute, if you have perfect confidence that the good Father is watching over you and has a good purpose in it all.

March 13

Our chief motive in life should be to say, "Father, for you," and then try to do His will for His sake, not for heaven, and then will come the peace which passeth the understanding, for we shall be doing it for no other reason than because we have fallen in love with the Infinite Love.

March 14

It is a great pity that we cannot keep distinct our bodies and *ourselves*. We use these hands, these eyes, these ears, this brain, but these are simply parts of the house in which we dwell. If we could only learn that we never really see the *indweller*, but only his manifestations, we should understand that we see God through his manifestations.

March 15

It is very easy to say we love people. We do not *love* them half the time. What we mean is we want them to love us. We say, "I love you," but the very moment a little coolness comes up, then the love is gone. Now the love that can survive the fading out of the love of the other is Christian. Christ taught that idea of love. People who have this kind appreciate love more than those who drive a barter trade in it.

March 16

Jesus thought prosperity was finding a way to bless, to serve, to give himself whole-heartedly to God.

March 17

You cannot mention a single temptation, that is, an opportunity with the desire to do wrong, that there is not also an opportunity to bless, to do the right, at the same time.

March 18

If books exert such an influence as we know they do, how much greater must be the influence of our lives!

March 19

Let us in everything we do, pray. If we eat, or drink, or sleep, let us remember it is entirely under the charge of the dear Father that we are able to do these things, and let us thank Him. If we want to have a closer walk with Him, let us talk with Him. That is the way we cultivate the acquaintance of people — by talking with them. Why not with God?

March 20

There is nothing which God has given us which is not a cause for gratitude. We sometimes charge Him with our own follies, as well as those of other people, but we know God intends always to bless us. The question is do you wish to rise into the manly and womanly condition of gratitude to the One from whom you receive all these things? If you do, do you care to spend an hour a week in ascertaining whether He has any choices; to express your gratitude and hear His wish?

March 21

Are you prepared to say to a friend who has lost a loved one, "Do not believe in death for a moment. Your loved one has merely gone out of the shell into the next condition of things, and you presently are going into the place prepared for you in the next world to meet your loved ones, and their going gives an added charm to the next world? Mothers never forsake their children: the Infinite Mother will never do so."

March 22

Seven-eighths of all we do in this world is done through faith by dire necessity. We ascertain through knowledge the pathway of faith, and then we walk in that pathway by faith.

March 23

Scepticism comes from charging God with human folly.

March 24

If there is anything true known concerning God, it is that He is long-suffering.

March 25

Love is never blind; affection often is. The more interested you are in another, the more you will see his faults and try to help him correct them; but you will also try to hide them from the sight of others.

March 26

What was the need of the crucifixion of Christ? Because His work could not have been accomplished without it.

March 27

Many people are essentially affected by disagreeable weather. This, then, is the time, the opportunity, to cultivate cheerfulness and hopefulness. There is no chance to cultivate it in pleasant weather. The man who has the opportunity to cultivate his cheerfulness, is the man who is blessed.

March 28

The missing of our loved ones is a sort of prophecy that we are going to see them again.

March 29

Have you risen with Christ? Have you begun the resurrection? If you have, do not stop at any low level. Come up higher, and say to yourself, O, for a closer walk with God, until you and the Father are so completely one that there is not a single thing that separates you from Him. Then this Easter Sunday will be a grand Easter Day. We shall be risen with Christ indeed, and we shall be all right for the day and all right for eternity.

March 30

God never deals with us in a mechanical way. He deals with us just as He does in every heart relation.

March 31

We talk of "Fate" about things because we are ignorant of the cause. As soon as we become enlightened we understand it is no blind force (fate), but God's plan.

April 1

Do not seek for the living among the dead, but let us lift our eyes, if we are risen with Christ, and seek our loved ones above; then when the meeting comes we shall not only have cherished the thought, but we shall be ready to join these eternal throngs in service to God.

April 2

No matter if a man does not believe in immortality; he cannot put out the sun because he is blind.

April 3

I am amazed to know how little real faith there is in the world. People *talk* faith, but they do not possess it. They say God is good, that they ought to trust Him, and then when anything happens in the way of affliction they say, "Oh, why

did this happen? Why was my child taken away?" Is that faith? Faith is walking not by sight, not by explanation. It is knowing in whom you trust and trusting *without* sight. It means if He takes my child, it is all right. If He takes my health, it is all right. Yes, you say, but how do you make it all right? I do not try to; that is just the point. I have *faith* that it is.

April 4

Do people go to a bureau drawer and look at the clothing of a friend who has gone and say the friend is there? Well, graves are God's bureau drawers in which are laid cast-off garments, and there is no more reason in saying our loved ones are there than in saying so when looking in the bureau drawers at home. And not so much, for broadcloth and silk last much longer than the body.

April 5

Do you suppose that if we do *our* part without fretting or worrying, just going on cheerfully, *cheerfully*, no matter what the circumstances may be, doing what God

wants us to do, being what God wants us to be, that He will not hold us closer to His heart and recognize that we are trying to be angels on the earth? We have only to put our hands in His. He is our guide and we have nothing to do but to put our hands in His and trust.

April 6

Climb up on to the cross and make it a matter of self-crucifixion, and say, I am going to do all I can for others, appreciated or not appreciated.

April 7

Shall a farmer instead of plowing and sowing ask God to give him a crop? Certainly not! Let him make his verbal prayer a prayer of action. The seed is God's, the soil is God's, the germinating power is God's. When the farmer prepares God's soil and sows God's seed, he thereby asks Him to cause the seed to grow. "Actions speak louder than words." In this case they are acceptable to God, but the mere words are useless. Here the farmer asks for a crop by deeds. His

request meets a response. Does this man show any less faith in God than the man who prays verbally? Certainly not! This man has both the understanding and spirit as far as he goes. What he *may* lack is the consciousness of the Source and so the gratitude which ennobles the recipient of a gift. So it is in the spiritual life; let us plow and sow and pray. While we work God will work in us to will and to do.

April 8

We are working for the next generation. It is not enough for us to recognize that our wrong-doing affects ourselves; we must realize that we transmit the consequences.

April 9

If we would be true disciples of Christ, if we would attain to the highest, let us go about doing good.

April 10

Justice is perfectly fair dealing; a practical recognition of the rights of others; seeing things just as they are.

April 11

What has become of my loved one? Dead? Some people say "Yes." Crape is appropriate for them. But here is a man who comes and sits at the feet of Jesus. Jesus says to him, "In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you." Is that true? Well, this man is just foolish enough to have faith in Jesus. He asks himself one question. Is the Eternal Father as good as this Jesus? Is it true that we are growing here in this little nursery, until, having gained experience, we shall presently move on — where we cannot tell — but somewhere under God's care? This man thinks it is simply sufficient to have faith in Jesus, who seems to have known the Father as very few people have known him. Out of this faith springs a hope, an expectation (not a proof), that the Father has something in the next world for him. It is God's arrangement that hearts shall come together and he will not separate them. What a difference it makes! Can it be possible that we can thus be cheated by this joy and grandeur if it were not the

truth? Error leads people down hill into the darkness; truth is always elevating and ennobling.

April 12

The only one who achieves perfect success in life is the true child of God.

April 13

The way to redeem people is to so fill them with the good that the good crowds out the bad.

April 14

The tempted should be as strong in resisting as the tempter in tempting. If you yield to temptation you are an enemy to the other person. If you tempt, of course you do wrong.

April 15

We are running a race. Christ is our goal and also our leader. There is not a thing which comes in our way which does not help us reach that goal, led by Christ.

April 16

He who through his interest in others undertakes to work along a pathway of

right, gets his perception sharpened and sees the right more clearly.

April 17

The man who seeks the light and works with God, doing what He would have him do, will find that there is not a solitary thing that will not contribute to his elevation.

April 18

The matter of prayer has been an obstacle in the way of a great many Christian people. It would not be so if they followed Paul's advice to pray with the spirit and the understanding also. Some people think the only way to pray is by words, but prayer is any expressed wish to God, whether formulated into words or not. If when a man plants seed he is conscious it is God's seed, that it is God's soil, and he then asks God to give him the harvest, he is praying with the spirit and the understanding also. God has ordered certain means through which we obtain certain results, and we must of necessity comply with those means in order to get the desired results. He never gave the world to

understand that a man could become an athlete by verbal prayer. No, but he must go to the gymnasium and comply with the means necessary in order to become strong. While the man works to obtain his strength, God will work with him. He who complies with the conditions God has made is filled with love and gratitude to Him and understands prayer.

April 19

That which promotes the best interest of a nation is a truth from God. The man who receives this truth and then puts it into practice, because God asks it at his hands and because man needs it, is doing the right thing.

April 20

Let us be sure in our heart of hearts that we are not ready to fling an evil for an evil.

April 21

If there is anything in any line by which we can improve ourselves, we do it because it is better for us, but that is a very poor motive. I doubt if anyone will succeed for

any length of time in trying to reach his ideal if he looks out *only* for Number One. He will forget his aim and think that self will be better cared for in some other way. He would then, by-and-by, lower the level and descend. But let us say that we will be what is best for ourselves and for every man, woman and child, for our *Divine Father's* sake, and so regulate our lives.

April 22

It is astonishing that we do not seek to develop more of God in us. We should use all means by which we can grasp the truth, be able to take broad views of subjects and go deep into them, and really lay hold on that which shall be to the mind what nourishment is to the body.

April 23

Are you in the habit of cherishing some thoughts which you had better not? Turn your mind into different channels,— it will be better for all about you. We can tell what some people are thinking about just by the expression of their countenances. Let us in the secret chambers of our

thoughts cherish such only as we could have in public; not for ourselves alone, but for the sake of others.

April 24

People are afraid to trust others at all because they cannot trust them in certain lines. So it is with God. They always have faith enough when they want to grumble, but they fail to thank Him for the good things of life, and have not faith enough to believe that the things they grumble and complain about will be made to work for their good if they will help Him.

April 25

If coming together once a week to worship, to show our gratitude to God, lifts us up into the highest possible condition, how important it is! If all the morning you have been down the harbor, reading stories, skating, or anything else of the kind, (though I don't believe in these doings) yet I say that if you spend this one hour, week in and week out, until you have thought out the beauty and purity of life, have brought your heart in closeness to the

Infinite Heart, the question will be, how much time on Sunday, or any other day, in fact, how much time every day shall you give.

April 26

A man may have a great deal of religion, interest in a ceremony, creed, or religious sentiment, and have very little that may be called Christianity. A man to be a Christian must have a Christ-like disposition and Christ-like character.

April 27

Some people regard trials as crosses. They are benedictions if rightly used. One person takes everything of sorrow in a terrible way, and talks it over and wants pity and sympathy, and thus loses his chance of heroism. On the other hand, a person who is willing to take every little thing in the way of trial and accept it heroically, encouraging all that is noble and manly, will become noble and manly.

April 28

It is a pity we do not understand the meaning of love. It would save us a great

many heartaches. I cannot conceive if anybody really holds me in his heart, how anybody else can turn me out. I am the only individual of my sort that God has created.

April 29

Goodness compels respect from everybody.

April 30

There is a higher ideal *in* the church than *out* of it, and nothing testifies to this more than the severe criticism made upon the misconduct of those in the church. And this is all right. Scholars expect to receive greater criticism than the ignorant.

May 1

I doubt very much the intelligent piety of a person who is not cheerful. "God loves the cheerful giver." Those people who have so much religion and so little piety that they cannot rejoice in all the good things of this world are defective.

May 2

Worship means an act of devotion to the Eternal Love.

May 3

Some one said "There is a great deal of friction in this world that needs oiling. The Christians are the ones to apply the oil where the friction abounds." Now I say that is just it. Show me a Christian and you will show me one who has the oil of grace, who moves smoothly without any creaking wheels and helps others to do the same.

May 4

Some people argue that it is always easier to take the wrong road than to take the right. This is only so when one is in the habit of taking the wrong path. Now, if you have been in the habit of being fretful and fussy, it will be easier for a time to keep in that way. But if you will be watchful and try to be kind and patient you will find it is easier to go in that way.

May 5

Unless you want to set the dog barking you must not stir him up, for the spirit of wrath is like a wild animal in people and the wisest thing to do is to learn not to wake it up.

May 6

Manners are wonderful creatures of influence.

May 7

Let us be peacemakers in this world, that whatever influence we exert it may be as if we were angels.

May 8

I have been told again and again that if you give a kind answer for an unkind one people will impose upon you. I think they impose upon you when they put the same kind of a spirit in you, and you give back the same kind of a word. They impose upon you when you resent and do not ride over their backs heavenward.

May 9

Can we not do more toward getting the faith, the strength, which will harmonize homes; that will redeem people from their wretched, unhappy condition; give them something more to live for than the mere idea of keeping body and soul together and then dying without any great struggle? Let us tell them that God loves them and that they can become Godlike.

May 10

A child never learnt to walk when it first got down from its mother's arms. Nobody became a perfect singer by running up the scale once. Why should we expect in one

of the grandest attempts of human life, namely, the gaining of a sweet disposition, to succeed at once.

May 11

It is a great help in anything we are attempting to accomplish to see the imperfections of other people. This is perfectly true in regard to the bothering dispositions of the world. They render great service for they give us opportunities to develop the Christian life. Let us rejoice in our opportunities, though we pity the people who furnish them.

May 12

People sometimes say that cheerfulness is a matter of birth or temperament. Nonsense! A man may be born a very strong, muscular man, and from want of using his muscles become a very feeble man. And a man may be born a very weak man, and by use of the gymnasium develop into a strong man. It is a miserable plea, this matter of birth. I like muscular Christianity.

May 13

A great many people are frightened away from all sorts of Christian influences by melancholy. They are made to think that in order to be noble it is necessary to wear a long face and put out of one's mind and life all cheerfulness. This is all wrong.

May 14

If you want to get rid of blueness, sweeten your disposition ; come out of that everlasting sour mood. Look out into God's grand heaven and earth, and think of somebody who is cheery and gladsome.

May 15

The whole secret of my joy and satisfaction in this world is LOVE. To love first the Eternal Father and out of that to serve people because they are God's children. A dream of heaven where all hearts are like this is something to think about.

May 16

How many times I have heard young people say, "When I am young I do not

want to sacrifice the joys of life, as some of these religious people do." What folly! Sacrifice *what* joys? Holiness? Righteousness? Are the joys (so-called) of the sinners something to be proud of? They bring slavery.

May 17

Whenever we get into the *habit* of doing the right things we enjoy doing them because that is the way God made us.

May 18

There are more than a thousand blessings bestowed upon us by God, and what are we giving in return? What would you think of a person who begged at the door every day and said nothing in gratitude? Would you think he was noble?

May 19

Let us appreciate what we have, but let us *give*.

May 20

If we would be true disciples of Christ; if we would attain to the highest among them, let us go "about doing good." The

grandest disciple is he who serves, whether appreciated or not.

May 21

People come to me and say they are perfectly willing to leave off this or that bad habit, but this one particular one they will not. Very well, but you are on *risky* ground, and do not for your right hand allow yourself to add any other bad habits to it. Put yourself under the very best social and religious influences so that just as a physician narrows a disease, trying to keep all the rest of the body sound, you will keep up your standard and not lower your ideal.

May 22

A diamond is a diamond without regard to setting. Nor does it matter what its reputation is. It may be reputed to be far more costly than it is, but nevertheless, is a diamond of just its own intrinsic value. So a man is just what *he* is, regardless of reputation.

May 23

For the sake of thoroughly understanding how good God is to us, we come

together on Sunday. There need be nothing religious about it, but just simple, loving gratitude. If you were all my children I should say to you, "Give me your hearts and I will risk you." The Infinite Father says just that, "Give me your heart. Your creed will take care of itself."

May 24

When you think that a man's religious life has more to do with his happiness and his home than anything else, it seems very strange that so little time is given to it and that so little intelligence accompanies the little time that *is* given.

May 25

An opportunity is a blessing. Suppose I am associated with somebody who tries my patience incessantly and is unreasonable. Very well, what a grand opportunity to have patience. A man cannot be strong unless he goes to a gymnasium. A man never grows strong in patience unless his patience is tried.

May 26

Heaven is the eternal inflow of the Infinite into us as our capacity increases.

May 27

People are apt to believe that they have to leap into perfection or else they cannot have it. They forget that they had to walk before they could run.

May 28

There are no circumstances which can prevent a man from being a child of God. There *are* circumstances which are very much more difficult to manage than others. But so it is with scholars; some studies are much more difficult than others. Let us manage all the trying circumstances of life so as to let our light shine that other people may see the truth and glorify our Father by doing the same thing.

May 29

If you want heroism you must be put on the battle-field of life.

May 30

Blessed is he who can look upon graves and believe none dead.

May 31

It is not enough for you to get clear thought of Christianity. You must spread it. Let us give all we can. Begin with the first person you get hold of. Only do not do it with an eternal preach. If you have Christianity in your soul it will come out; you cannot bury your knowledge on any subject. Do the children who go to school leave their knowledge in the school-house? If you have Christianity in your souls you cannot leave it in the church; you must carry it out into the world.

June 1

Marriage is not a business partnership; it is not getting a house with some one to look after it; it is not getting a landlady to board with; it is something very much beyond partnership. It is two persons — that is the idea in creation — becoming one; in the real and actual sense, becoming one.

June 2

Nothing pulls us down more than treating persons according to their *position* in life. There is many an angel hidden away behind some of these serving persons.

June 3

Belief is simply the intellect rendering assent upon evidence.

June 4

In love service we have nothing to do with the humiliation of failure. We are simply looking out that we serve.

June 5

If we should make up our minds to be satisfied with reading just what we have time to read, and not try to be mental gluttons, we should have more actual *life*. We undertake to do in the reading line that which, instead of giving clear thought and mental vigor, gives us confused thought.

June 6

We should never have thought of God pitying a sinner, if Christ had not done so. We should never have realized how He sympathizes with the blind and rejoices when their eyes are opened, if Jesus had not opened blind eyes. I often think that when Jesus took little children in his arms the mothers must have understood God better in consequence.

June 7

A book is not worth anything to us until it passes into ourselves and is ourselves.

June 8

To many people the words religion and God have been spoiled. Interest in the dear Father appeals to us more.

June 9

People who worry do not *live;* they merely exist, and their existence is upon the rack all the time.

June 10

Excess in the way of possessions does not add to the happiness of life. All excess is loss, no matter in what line.

June 11

There is a class of people who never oil their wheels ; they always work hard. They need to get out of themselves and find somebody who will give them the oil of cheerfulness and gladsomeness.

June 12

It requires a much more lovely character to be God-like than it does to be religious. Everyone who is filled with the Love-spirit is God-like.

June 13

In losing my life, that is, giving myself to God and His children, I pass into a grander life.

June 14

The man who loves knows what love is, but he cannot explain it, or prove it. The man who has faith in his neighbor knows it, but he cannot prove it. The man who loves God knows it, and out of it he is led to the hope, the expectation of immortality. He has an experience which those who do not love God know nothing about. It cannot be reached by logic or reason.

June 15

Everyone can judge what he is by the way he receives the highest truth and the good he is doing in the world. If he sweetens, purifies, makes better all who come in contact with him, he need not fear.

June 16

God without Jesus would have been heard in the thunder and recognized in the roll of the ocean, in the beauty of the flowers and in the sunset, but would have been too great for finite perceptions to grasp. Jesus has done more towards changing laws and customs, more towards affecting character, more towards bringing our ideal direct to God than all other people put together.

June 17

How many people look upon a Chinaman, an Armenian, a Roman Catholic, a Turk, all these different children of God, with anything but the recognition of a brother! What we need is to love the Father in such a way that we regard every one as His child. You may say, "Are we to regard every foreigner as we would a native? Are we to regard every stranger as we would a friend, or the members of our own family?" Why, God made us to love the home and the family circle, the father, mother, brothers and sisters, and meant no other place or people to be the

same to us. But the man who loves his home, who really knows what it is to love, is the very man to go outside and find a brother or sister. He knows what Infinite Love is. When this love rules, then there will be no difference in people; no north, no south, no east, no west. This cannot come about through mere self-interest, but if God asks it to be done, we can do it for Him.

June 18

We can laugh and sing and dance and discharge life's duties better, if we are God's children, — if we become His sons and daughters as He is surely our Father.

June 19

The man who is a child of God, who is interested in Him, does not forget it behind the counter, in his business or anywhere else. Jesus would be Jesus no matter what he was doing or where he was. When he was a carpenter he was one of the best of carpenters you could ask for. When he was with the people he was one of their brethren.

June 20

Jesus did not gain his victory over temptation simply by being virtuous. It is all nonsense to say that Jesus was merely moral. What gave him his victory was his love to the Father, his piety.

June 21

Jesus makes us long to be tempted in all points as he was, because those are the ladders up which to mount to the grandest development.

June 22

In this world the object lesson is what we want. To define the principles of music is one thing, to hear and enjoy the music is quite another. To define what it is to be a child of God is one thing; to *be* a child of God is another.

June 23

We must become a loving being before we can begin to conceive the meaning of the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven cometh not by observation; it is within you.

June 24

When Jesus said "I am the Way, the Truth, the Light," he was not understood. He meant that love was the truth — that was the only truth he believed; love was the way; love was the foundation of life. That was the whole of it, and he that is filled with love is the one who understands all this.

June 25

We are having a new race of beings evolved in the world. The difference between the highest animal and the lowest order of man is not as great as between the selfish man and the race of altruists, as they are called by scientists, — the race of lovers, as Christ would use the word. Eventually all other races on the face of the earth will give place to this final race of altruists, as the present civilization of Europe and America has succeeded to the ignorance of the Middle Ages.

June 26

Jesus had but one thought in his mind, but one purpose in his heart. He had

fallen in love with God and he was a perfect son of Infinite Benevolence. He had not a selfish thought in his whole being.

June 27

The question we should ask is, What can I do for you? That was the question of Jesus. He was willing to lay down his life for others; not for martyrdom, but for service to mankind. He cured the sick, attended feasts; anything that was needed. He was here *to serve;* to be just like his Father.

June 28

The man who only cares for himself lives in a decent, proper and excellent way; certainly makes a good citizen, a good companion; but he knows no more about the condition of love — of altruism — than an idiotic brain knows about education.

June 29

Just in proportion as a person is wrong or self-indulgent, the wrong is an impassable gulf for union between him and his friend, or between him and God.

June 30

In patience, in cheerfulness, let us possess ourselves and be cheerful when other people are cheerless. Do not pray that people who are disagreeable be removed from your surroundings ; let contact with them develop you ; let them be your gymnasium. Cheerfulness is a cure for harsh judgments. It is easy when cheerful to act charitably towards other people. There is a power in cheerfulness to change the whole person so as to become a grander and better man.

July 1

We cannot forgive a sin until the sin is repented of and quitted.

July 2

Opportunity tells us what to do.

July 3

We are continually praying, "Thy will be done," and yet we are continually postponing the doing of God's will until we get to heaven.

July 4

Do that which is best according to your own judgment, but do not do it because it suits *you*. Ask whether it is better for a community. Every man can choose his own pathway, but let him choose it as a

citizen of the community, as a child of the everlasting Father, and as a possible child of immortality.

July 5

We always desire a leader who understands our difficulties and has gained his victory through similar experiences. We *have* a leader who knows how to sympathize with us and he is Jesus.

July 6

If we keep our eyes open to the value of little things, we shall appreciate the contributions of the little ones and of the widows, not merely in money, but in the kind word, the "Good morning" and the "How are you?" It is an easy matter to give away money if one has any, but not so easy to be always ready with the kind word or to keep patient.

July 7

Do you know how much we love to be trusted? If there is anything which strengthens a person and lifts him up into something grander and stronger, it is the fact that some one has confidence in him.

July 8

An angel is not a creature with wings, but one possessed of a large heart, filled with kind and thoughtful consideration.

July 9

There is an apparent *bluster* in the man who gets angry, but not half the *strength* there is in the man who controls his temper and returns good for evil and conciliates, if not himself, at least those who look on at the time.

July 10

Things come to us in one way and another and attack us on our weak points and we are afraid we shall fall. Jesus would say, " Listen to the higher voice and stand up clean before God and man."

July 11

The failure of Christ's life was the failure to lift his nation from external formality into real piety.

July 12

Do good in little ways; in a " Good

morning;" in a joke; in all sorts of things that mean making others happy, all the way from washing the disciples' feet to dying for people.

July 13

We cannot teach the higher truths by words. When people get the holy spirit by deeds they understand it.

July 14

We can define anything, but a definition does not fill the entire soul. We perceive the fragrance of the rose, the blush of the peach through the intellect, and can define what we mean by these poetic expressions, but that is not the whole of it.

When we undertake to define love, let us seize the central thought; but we cannot associate one experience of love with another experience of love. An enemy comes to me hungry and I rejoice to feed him. Now I turn to my friend: there accompanies my interest in my friend an entirely different emotion from what my enemy awakened. While I am interested in both the relation is different.

July 15

God has put his Son before us and says, "This is my image. Fill yourself with this love. The only way to know me is to fill yourself with unselfishness."

It takes a philosopher to understand a philosopher. It takes a poet to respond to a poet. It takes a perfectly God-like child to understand the Eternal Father.

July 16

Fervor without interest is sentiment only, — not LOVE.

July 17

We can have a conversation with God any time if we will learn the language.

July 18

If we have around us neighbors, friends, in whom it is possible to increase the real life, ought we not to do it? No matter if we are church members or not. We either administer to the life of those around us or we do not. We use our experience in such a way as to bless them or we do not.

July 19

People excuse themselves for not going to church when in the country in summer because they go all the rest of the year; because they hear poor sermons. I made up my mind that I had better go into the most miserable schoolhouse and hear the most miserable sermon, if need be, because thus my influence would be better on the community.

July 20

Do not marry a pretty face; do not refuse to marry a pretty face. Do not marry from fancy. Thoroughly acquaint yourself with the other, even if you have to wait until you are old before marrying.

July 21

Nature is God in action.

July 22

If we should compare our look at the color and form of the daisy and rose with that of other people, we should be surprised to find the difference. Our relation

to God is so individualized that each of us sees things differently.

July 23

A spirit is material, but not substantial. It is an intelligent, affectionate, conscious being, and God is simply that carried to infinity.

July 24

We are never satisfied with what we have attained. It is always the next book, the next game we are looking forward to.

July 25

May the spirit of Christ so fill our hearts that whatever we shall do will be a manifestation of that spirit and be the joy of the Father and the peace of man.

July 26

I believe there are more people who have the spirit of Christ in them than we imagine. There are more people who are altruists than we have any idea of.

July 27

The genius of Christianity is love to God and love to man.

July 28

So many people fail to see Jesus. They merely see an historical character about whom many stories have been told, but they fail to see the real Jesus.

July 29

There is no more glorious way of being crucified than in quietly enduring, by throwing oil on the troubled waters, and by giving a kind word for an unkind one.

July 30

If I do the best I can; if I am filled with the spirit of Christ, I am sure that the work I do here will be just as important as if I were somewhere else, in some larger work.

July 31

I do not believe in the saying, "God appoints and man disappoints," but rather that God appoints and man *reappoints*.

August 1

Angels are made through little, quibbling things. To bear, day in and day out, the little aggravating things, the little cambric needles pricking into you every five minutes, requires a great deal more patience and heroic courage and love to God, than some seemingly great things.

August 2

There is only one attitude to assume when we come in contact with a horrid, trying disposition, and that is one of pity, compassion.

August 3

We want to be just like Jesus, to have more of his spirit, more of his disposition, so that whatever we may do we shall stop and ask, "Is this the way, is this the manner to help on the heavenly kingdom?"

August 4

Activity is rest, if it is the right kind of activity.

August 5

Jesus would say, "What I can do to-day I will do cheerfully, patiently, in the presence of the Infinite Father, and for the good of humanity; and if I cannot do all I have planned to do, I will understand it is His will, and not worry and fret."

The principal point in our work is not to reach a certain point at sunset, but that we should stand right in our place with those about us, and try to catch this Christ spirit and let others about us see it that they may catch it, and go away inspired with love to God and man, and have a little more trust in Him.

August 6

God supplies the power and then lays a plan before us, and, if we use our powers as he wishes us to do, we bless; if not, we curse.

August 7

Some people say they do not know how to love God. "Go about and do good."

"He who loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" Do good because people *need* it, without regard as to whether they *deserve* it or not.

August 8

People complain because they occupy low places; because they are carpenters, for instance. Why, Jesus was a carpenter, but that did not prevent him from being a Son of God. Housekeepers have as much to do in advancing the kingdom of heaven as anybody else.

August 9

You know we can be mirthful and still be ugly down inside, but that is not being *cheerful*.

August 10

We start in life caring for the body, and we ought to care for it, because it serves a double purpose. First, as the house in which we dwell; and secondly, as the instrument through which we receive the contributions of the outer world. As a

tenement, it becomes us to keep it in good repair. As a complicated instrument, it deserves to be developed so that we can receive all possible through these five senses.

August 11

We are to do what Christ would do, to be perfect Christs in the *little* matters; and if we consent to have the Father with us, we shall know that we are not alone, because He is with us, and that these little tormenting things are really opportunities to lift us to the Father in loving trust.

August 12

Do not lose faith in prayer; that is, faith in communion with the Eternal Father. Let us pray without ceasing, not only with the spirit of a certain religious zeal, but with the understanding also. Let us throw ourselves into the dear Father's arms, and allow Him to take us into His heart. Then we will indeed be His children and will do His will out of love for Him and His saints.

August 13

Life is being one with the Father, and being loyal to His children.

August 14

To intelligently like a person you must study his character.

August 15

I do not believe in the statement that "everything is intended for the best." I believe that God over-rules the evil that good may come from it.

August 16

The person who seeks to bless every one with whom he comes in contact sends forth an influence which is not lost.

August 17

It is because we are free to do certain things, right or wrong, that evil comes upon us. Providence has nothing to do with it. It is entirely the derangement of God's plan, and not at all the arrangement.

He could prevent all the results of our wrong-doing only by a miracle.

August 18

We complain at the wrongs done us ; at the evil things. How are we going to learn patience, skill, tact, returning good for evil, unless evil is done toward us ?

August 19

Let us be cheerful not simply for our own sakes. Those who believe in God do it for His sake. Let us be cheerful, if we have no belief in God, because the nation needs it; because it will send out from the land the demons of harsh judgment and meanness.

August 20

We cannot mention a single temptation, that is, an opportunity with a desire to do the wrong that there is not also on the other hand, an opportunity to bless, to do the right.

A temptation is an opportunity for the son of God to grow.

August 21

Blind love is lack of judgment. Sentiment is the feeling, the emotion, the sugar-coating to the cake. Love, true love, is unselfish interest in others.

August 22

If we are to eternally grow, we have not a moment to lose, for "what a man soweth that shall he reap." How important it is, therefore, that we hurry up and begin at once.

August 23

People receive things from God as if there were no God. They say it is a law. Law is but a mode of action, and this mode of action is the power of God.

August 24

God cannot, at the same moment, do me a favor and an unkindness.

August 25

We all have our Gardens of Gethsemane; our trials in one way or another. Some-

times the threatening approach is more bitter than the experience itself. We have a perfect right to say, "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me." But, out of our faith, we can add, "Do not mind the cry of Thy child, the anguish on my part; Thou knowest what is best for me." It was perfect confidence in his Father that made Jesus breath his prayer.

August 26

Are we a long ways further ahead in the higher life than we used to be? Are we watchful lest some deed should do an injury; or the omission of some word or deed may fail to do good? As we get more watchful along these lines, we get closer to God, and, as we draw closer to Him, we draw other people in the same direction.

August 27

Error does mischief; fanaticism does mischief; but belief in immortality has elevated people and will elevate us.

August 28

Talk about sending missionaries to the heathen! There are heathen enough in this community, that is, men and women who know nothing about the loving Father's care, who need to be taught.

August 29

You are born into this world God's child. Whether you will be a good child will depend entirely upon your choices. These choices give you character. God cannot give you character; man cannot prevent your having one. It depends entirely upon yourself.

August 30

It is not the amount of work done, but the manner, the spirit in which it is done. We are to be redeemers of everything that is evil and loathsome, and do it as if we had just one day to do it in, cheerfully, patiently and beautifully. Let the body get tired, but let the spirit keep calm and cheerful. In doing this we will be bringing in the very reign of heaven.

August 31

My life is entirely from the Father. He thinks of me as an individual and gives me my life, and I should recognize this personal interest in me and turn round and respond to it. We do not cultivate God's acquaintance. We sing "Nearer, my God, to Thee," but we do not know the meaning of the words; they do not fill our souls; they do not come from the heart.

September 1

What is the church? It is the oldest society in Christendom. It traces its history way back nineteen centuries to Jesus of Nazareth as its founder. It has assumed a great many different forms along the line of its history. Just so far as these different churches have become schools for creed and ritualism, so far have they failed to accomplish that which Jesus intended. Yet in the midst of it all, such a power has Jesus had in the world that his spirit has moulded characters and raised a standard. This was the intention of the church. Just as schools have led people out of their physical life into mental training and mental vigor, so the church has led people into spiritual living; led them to be children of the Infinite Father; to become as far as finites can become, angels on the earth.

September 2

One thing that keeps us away from God is the feeling that He is infinite. How can we grasp the infinite? Suppose a child has a very great man for a father and when he nestles in his father's arms, he should undertake to equal his father in his abilities, — what a mistake he would make. But if the little child just nestles in the father's arms and thinks about the intelligent mind, the kindness, the tenderness of the father, the child understands him.

Let us try to think of the Eternal Father as near. Let us hear him, of course, in the voice of the ocean, in the storm, but let us hear him when he exhorts us to do something better than we have done before. Let us realize his tenderness.

September 3

God does not like drones.

September 4

You and I expect some of these days to come to the end of this journey. The question will be when the time arrives,

have we any reason to expect that we shall survive these bodies? All we have to do in this world is to *hope* for a life to come. Those who begin by saying they *know* there is a life to come are the very ones who first become sceptical. You and I expect to live to-morrow because we have a right to hope for continuance of life; so we have a right to hope for the eternal life.

There are three classes who give three different reasons for expecting a future life: The first is composed of the Spiritists. They believe from their testimony that there is a life to come. I have been to forty-five mediums, but I could get nothing to satisfy me that they have anything conclusive in their arguments. The second class is made up of those whose faith in Jesus is such that they take his testimony on the subject and expect to realize what he has promised. The third class do not depend either upon the communications from the Spiritists, or the testimony of Jesus, but draw their conclusion entirely from the character of God as manifested in creation. They say God could not have brought into being intelligent, affectionate children and then annihilate them.

Now putting these conclusions together, I cannot help believing, though I cannot prove it, that we are not separated from our dear ones, but are re-united in the next life.

September 5

We are limited and conditioned, but not governed by circumstances.

September 6

We have not to walk miles to find God. These beating hearts are conclusive evidences that He is within us. These consciences show His watchfulness ; this peace shows the result of doing His will and the kingdom of heaven is established within us.

September 7

There are times when you and I and every other person cannot see daylight. As Father Faber puts it in one of his hymns : " It is as if there were no God." It seems as if all good things had gone from us. When everything is clear, there is no trust, but trust comes when you are ill-treated ; when you are poor and others

are rich who have not worked as hard as you have; when the few friends who ought to serve you turn against you; when you are sick at a time when you can least afford to be. These and a hundred other conditions are those in which the question is, — Can you trust? Can you trust intelligently? Can you trust God enough to keep perfectly peaceful and contented? Out of this trust, this perfect confidence, you will be led to the expectation that it is all coming out right if you do your part.

September 8

When we go to a person to redeem him or to criticize, we should go in a spirit of meekness and love, and not in a fault-finding way, and so fill him with the good that it will crowd out the wrong.

September 9

God is not an exacting ruler, but an interested Father.

September 10

Suppose some one should speak to you a great many times and you never an-

swered; suppose some one reached out his hand to you and you refused to take it. How long would it take you to cultivate a relation with that person? When we respond to the Father; when we say, "Yes, Father, I see because You have given me eyes to see with. I understand, because You are helping me to think. I do not know how it is done. I long to do right because You whisper to me some lofty ideal. I am sorry to have done wrong, not because there is any penalty attached, but because You are not pleased with me" —when we come to the Father in this way, the result will be that the conviction will grow upon us that we are in the presence of the Father; that we see him just as we see everybody else.

September 11

Perfect trust means perfect peace.

September 12

Let us stop and consider from whom all our blessings come. Where do you suppose man gets his brain with which to

invent? Where do you suppose man gets his generosity with which to give? These come in the constant stream flowing from the Infinite to us.

September 13

The people who do the largest amount of work with the least amount of wear and tear are the people who cultivate cheerfulness.

September 14

The question is, is God good? If you can discover in any way that He is good, trust Him; but do not ask Him to do impossible things.

September 15

God is the *Father* of our spirits, the *Creator* of our bodies.

September 16

People fail to see their privileges in this world. You tell them to interest themselves in their enemy and they say they cannot. If he is hungry, can you not feed him? The very moment we begin to see

God and live the life of love, we have begun to grow. The great difficulty is that we do not see the privilege. One part of my education has been utterly neglected; that is, the chance to love an enemy, for I never had one, and I believe the majority of people have never had enemies. We exaggerate people's impatience and weakness and call them our enemies. I say it is a privilege to come in contact with ugly dispositions. It is a privilege to suffer the torments and sickness and evils that come upon us. There is not a position in which people are in this world which is not a privilege, if we will only understand that we are to bless those who curse us; to return good for evil. If we can only see this once; only live it once; just be willing to be misunderstood, ill-treated or abused, so as to be able to say, "Now is my chance; this is my crucifixion; what my great Master said, 'Forgive them, for they know not what they do,' I can say;" then we shall understand our privileges.

September 17

Justice, fair dealing, lies at the foundation of God's throne.

September 18

To be filled with love is to be willing to run God's errands, to be willing to bless anybody who comes in your way.

September 19

An illustration is not an argument.

September 20

Nature reveals God to an extent, but nature cannot reveal the love of God as Christ did.

September 21

The most conclusive proof to me of the benefit of the higher life is not a theologian's argument, but my experience. I *know* that love is better than hate. I *know* that patience is better than irritability. I *know* that a peace-maker is better than a war-maker. I *know* that a trusting heart is better than a distrusting heart. I *know* that the man who is living to *serve*, lives a happier, more delightful life than the man who lives selfishly.

September 22

You must become a loving being before you can conceive of the meaning of the reign of the kingdom of heaven, or the reign of love upon the earth or anywhere else. The kingdom of love cometh not by observation ; it is within you. Suppose there was a kingdom of knowledge and people said where is this kingdom located ? You would say, here in the head. So it is with the kingdom of love, kingdom of heaven, — it is within you.

September 23

Which would you prefer to be, the strongest man that ever lived ; the greatest scholar in the world ; or this little Jew, Jesus, who, at thirty-three years of age, was executed? I suppose there is not a person on the face of the earth who really *sees* Jesus, who would not prefer to be him. You do not really see the athlete, or the scholar, but they reveal themselves by what they do. Now he who sees Jesus, who can lift the veil and look into his heart and see the peace and joy and gladness of his life, can understand that between him

and the Father there was a perfect union. There is not one of us who would not rejoice to be that Jesus.

September 24

If you are "risen with Christ;" if he has grown into your thought; if he has possession of your heart; if he has presented the vision of love to your souls, so that you have come up out of your vices of the past, it is indeed a resurrection. But do not stop there. Drive out everything that is selfish, and fill yourself with everything that is heavenly and the resurrection will be complete.

September 25

Jesus was a perfect Son of Infinite Benevolence. He had not a selfish thought in his whole being. It was, "What can I do for you? Lay down my life? Very well; anything that will serve you."

September 26

Jesus was here to serve every moment, whether it were feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, or anything else. He was here to

serve, just as his Father does, whose sun shines on the just and unjust, and whose knowledge enters the mind of all. If his Father asked him to go *anywhere*, he went. If he asked him to suffer, he said, "Certainly." His meat and his drink, the gladness of his life was in doing his Father's will.

September 27

What is it to love one's enemy? It certainly is not to love as you would your wife, or sister, or friend. It is to be interested in one's enemy. If you dislike your enemy you can, if he need it, give him food and drink or assist him in any way.

The man who knows what it is to say to his enemy, "If you are hungry, *won't* I love and feed you; if you are in any need, *won't* I like to serve you," knows the meaning of the kingdom of love.

September 28

Contrast two persons; one who is filled with gratitude to God, and another who says, "O, dear, dear! There is that thing which somebody else has that I might have."

One has the kingdom of heaven in his soul, and the other has the kingdom of selfishness, shall I call it? It certainly is not the kingdom of joy and peace.

September 29

God rejoices over his child who does the right, mourns and laments over his child who will do the wrong.

September 30

There is a new order of beings who have the spirit of Christ. An order that will increase in number, in fullness and power in the world. Let us have more of this love. Do not let us be particular about whom we serve. If there are people in the world who need us, let us serve them. If they can serve us, all the better for them, but no better for us. If they are ungrateful, all the worse for them, but no worse for us. The Father is pleased. But we shall not fail. I can tell you, after forty-nine years of ministry, that "There is no such word as *fail*."

October 1

Let us see how many people we can win over to belonging to the new class of altruists. The creed will not answer; the religious emotion will not answer. It must be a good, clear, honest surrender of the will to the Infinite will, so that we can say to the Infinite Ruler, "Thy reign be established in human hearts; Thy will be done."

October 2

What hinders the nearness of our relation to God? The trouble is in the mind, in the intellect. How thoroughly do you and I comprehend God? We are told of His unlimited knowledge, and that His wisdom is commensurate with His knowledge. Our reverence is increased, the sense of His exceeding greatness is increased, — but there is no such thing as getting into His arms like a little child. Let us sustain a heart-to-heart relation with God.

October 3

Notice the things which God is doing for us a *Father*, not merely as a Powerful Being.

October 4

What is God's idea of our good? Some people think it means money; others that it means popularity, or prosperity in any line which promotes the happiness of the individual. This is not God's idea at all. If it were we should have to say that He fails in a large majority of cases. What is His purpose? It is to make every individual a child of His own, the life aim being, not self, but first the Father, and then, as a natural result, the Father's children. This should be our aim, and there is not a person in the world who succeeds in reaching that aim who is not satisfied with it.

October 5

Marriage is the loveliest relation that God ever arranged for man, but it cannot take place to please fathers and mothers, or for the sake of getting wealth or a home. It cannot be done on the theory that because

love does not come before marriage, it will after. It must be entered into out of a tender, strong attachment, which makes this particular one more than all else.

October 6

Under no circumstances am I alone, no matter what may happen to me. God is always present, not as a Great Being, but as a Father.

October 7

We do not realize the blessed gifts we have in our five senses, to which the Father gives His constant attention. All these blessings come to us whether we are in an ugly or pleasant frame of mind; whether we are selfish or generous. His hand is never shortened.

October 8

We are constantly told of the infinite power of God; of His mighty thought; but God is love vastly more than He is power or thought.

October 9

When you send some little thing to a sick friend to cheer him, that is a true Communion Service, because it is a heavenly thing. God smiles and the angels rejoice.

October 10

In doing the right thing, have a motive; do it for some one else. "For thy sake" will accomplish everything.

October 11

Try to see without God; to love without God; to remember without God; you cannot do it. You will find that he is giving you sight, affection, memory, every moment; whispering to you to be an angel every moment. Well, then, let us turn round and say, "Father, you draw near to me, I will draw near to Thee and respond to Thee; then I shall do Thy will on the earth as the angels do it in heaven. I shall not think of Thy greatness, but think of Thee as a baby does of its mother when in her arms."

Let us draw nearer to God, that God may draw near to us.

October 12

Where does the Father ever fail? The failure is not on His part in any of the cases of sickness or poverty, or any of the many disagreeable things. Sickness is a derangement of His plan, not an arrangement. Poverty is a derangement; God intended all should have sufficient, and provided for all.

October 13

Where does trust in Providence come in? We hold a two-fold relation to the Father; we are sons of God and sons of men. As a child of the Eternal Father, I am perfected, as His Son was perfected; through suffering. If I am to become a nobler, grander child of His through what I can get from suffering in my home, from sickness, from poverty, then does he not make all things work together for good, just in proportion as I love Him?

October 14

It is not a question of what you want to do, but what is *best* for you, what will work out for you the grandest sum of good.

When God over-rules the weakness and folly of His children, so that you turn to Him and say, moment by moment, " Father, I want to be just what you want me to be, having just the manner, the calmness, the kindliness, the sweetness that I should have, because You want me to be that," then, as a child of God, you cannot help being a success.

October 15

I have had many experiences in life, and I cannot conceive of any, whether poverty, sickness, trials or difficulties, where the Father has not fulfilled the promise of making all things work together for good just in proportion as I have loved Him.

October 16

God is not responsible for the miseries of life ; for the bad husbands, scolding wives, bad companions. He mourns over them as much as we do and has infinitely more compassion for them than we have.

October 17

Let us learn the lesson of faith so that we can say, "To-day, Father, or to-night, to-morrow, wherever I may happen to be, I will do Thy will." Then just when we are starting to do something not angelic, we will hear the Father's voice, "My child, my child!" and we will say, "Nobody shall see me do anything that is not in perfect harmony with being Your child; I will do Your will on this earth as the angels are doing it."

October 18

We may have a grand exterior; be every Sunday at church; read the best books; and everybody may think about us, and we about ourselves, that we are pretty good, anyway. But there is an eye that looks inside. "Ye are the temple of the living God." It may be that the kind of thoughts we cherish, the tendencies we gratify, corrupt the temple. We are in the same condition as the money changers in the temple. Jesus would say to us, "Purify the temple; the pure in heart shall see God. You need to regulate these thoughts.

You need to remember that you are naked and open unto the eyes of God. If you will be perfectly at one with Him, cleanse the temple."

October 19

A watchmaker makes a watch not at all with regard to the accidents which may happen to it; not at all with regard to the derangements which may take place in the watch. Still he is quite ready to repair the watch when it is brought to him.

God created man without any regard to his injuring himself or his neighbor, but He has laid a plan in such a way that man cannot spare anything in his make-up. We find that He has made man free so that he can use his brain in the way God intended, or he can abuse it. When he dissipates he sees fit to use himself in that way. If anybody is to be blamed it is the man; if anybody is to be pitied it is God. When the man repents of his wrong-doing, or when he brings himself back to God, and attends to all which shall increase rather than diminish strength, he will find the Father ready to forgive the past and to

increase the vigor, whether mental, moral or physical.

October 20

You would think that if anybody was to escape the evils of life it ought to have been Jesus. But did he? He had not where to lay his head. He was misunderstood continually by other persons. Finally he had the martyrdom of the cross. And what did he say? At first, in all his disappointment, "My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" and *then*, "Nevertheless, Thy will, not mine, be done."

October 21

There are times when we feel as if God had removed from the universe; as if we were left utterly alone without Him, just as Jesus felt on the cross. But do you suppose he had any doubt as to the finality of it? His was the most crushing disappointment that could have come to any man. He came to lift man out of his coldness into warmth; out of selfishness into love. Yet though he was executed like a criminal between two criminals, he said, "Into Thy hands I commend my spirit."

October 22

The dreaded evils of the future are always worse than the present. The things that may happen to-morrow, or next week, or next year are those we worry about. That is the time we need trust, which means that the Eternal Father knows best and loves us dearly.

October 23

"He went about doing good." That is the picture we should look at when thinking of Jesus. Had the world done so all these years it would have progressed much more than it has.

October 24

Sometimes we get discouraged and it seems to us that we are failing in working out the good. Never you fear so long as you are doing your part. God has as much interest in your brothers and sisters as you have.

October 25

If we only have faith as a grain of mustard seed; that is, if we have a little faith

in the Eternal Father, it will grow like that grain of mustard seed, until it removes all the obstacles in our pathway, and we become Christs ourselves.

October 26

The Eternal Father never lets His children drop into nothingness. They occupy a place in the Infinite heart that is never empty.

October 27

You can no more expect God to work miracles to accommodate your temporal affairs, than to work miracles in every other case, for then utter confusion would reign.

October 28

Let the future alone. Let the past alone. Let even to-night alone. Let us take moment by moment and say, "Father, I will be Thy child, and a brother or sister of humanity, and so use the appointments and disappointments of life that I may exert a Christ-like influence."

October 29

Faith comes by *faithing*, as hope comes by hoping and love comes by loving.

October 30

There is no such thing as fate in the universe. Fate is a blind, unintelligent force. We should substitute the word *opportunity* for *chance*, and *fortune* and *misfortune* for *luck*, and then we shall better understand. It is a matter of ignorance on our part instead of a matter of fate.

October 31

Remembering Christ is not simply an act of memory, but it is breathing his spirit and living as he did.

November 1

The whole secret of happiness is generosity, the seeking not our own, but everybody's good. Every one of us can do this, giving our life as a ransom for many. Shall we not do it?

November 2

One of the great mistakes people make is in giving too much thought to the immensity of God; to the Infinite attributes. Of course, we should recognize all these, but they do not draw us to God. Reverence, mere reverence, separates; love, real love, wins, draws.

November 3

We have not the remotest idea of how much we are under obligation to this Jesus of Nazareth. It does not matter what your

theology is about this Son. Do you *see* the Son? Do you understand the disposition and character of this Son of Man, of Humanity, this Son of God? If you do, and are drawn towards Him, you will turn to the Father. Through the Son you know more about the Father than all the theologies in the world can teach you.

November 4

Just in proportion as we become religious we get away from God. We substitute something else instead of God. Just as soon as we see the simplicity of Christ we understand the Father.

November 5

You may or may not believe in the miracles. It does not matter a particle. You *must* believe that these stories would not have been told of a cruel, unkind, ungenerous man, but would only have been told of one who was generous, large-hearted.

November 6

We have the tenderness of God revealed to us in Jesus. Whenever I see a mother

with her baby in her arms looking at the baby in a way as only a mother can, I say, "God is Love." I have it revealed to me as I cannot get it in the ocean or in the wind or in a landscape.

November 7

People who are doing all kinds of service, whether to the rich or poor, ignorant or wicked, out of pure unselfishness, are nearer the Father than they would be by merely singing hymns and going through merely religious forms. They have caught the spirit of Christ. Let us catch His spirit and live as He lived, and we cannot possibly get up any scepticism. We shall not merely say it in our intellects, it will fill our lives and we shall know it because our souls are filled.

November 8

God is your Father and my Father. He has more sympathy with us than any parents ever had. He has more ambition for us. He will never be satisfied until we are angels. He will not give us up until we come up from a lower condition into a

higher. Our very safety consists in His looking out for us.

November 9

God does not hold Himself in ignorance of us up to a certain date and then when that time comes compare what we have to say for ourselves with an account and render a decision. He knows the whole history from the first choice up to the present moment. We may veil all this from other people, we cannot from Him. There is no such thing as cajolery with God.

November 10

What is the use of having an account with God? An account generally is made for a result, as a financial account, for instance, and drafts are made upon it. We make a draft on God every day by our actions. The man who volunteers to do a bad thing, draws upon the Father, and instead of exciting His approval, excites His pity, His compassion. He draws upon the Infinite Source to go below the grade. On the other hand, the man who works out his salvation from all evil, who accumulates

not only clear thought, but righteousness, love in all directions, is transformed into the image of the Father and is filled with joy and peace.

November 11

How is our account with God made? It is made each moment; we write it out. When night comes the events of the day are entered into our character. We may have wished that we had not said a certain word of unkindness, done a certain deed; we may have wished to recall moments and do something which we may have neglected to; but what is written is written and the account is made.

November 12

Selfish people are insane when indulging in selfishness. They do not see things as they are. They are always drawing upon their imaginations, tormenting themselves and their neighbors. You long to say to them in a trumpet tone, "Wake up, and come out of this eternal self and rise in love to God and your neighbor. You are not only tormenting yourselves, but you

are influencing other characters, and they are so many witnesses to the account you are rendering to God."

November 13

Sins of omission mean a pile of wealth out and beyond one's self that might as well have been transferred into the soul.

November 14

Scientists have taught us the invariability of law; that everything will act in precisely the same way under precisely the same circumstances. What is law? It is God's regular mode of action. A law cannot work of itself. People talk about the laws of nature as though the laws were so many little gods setting up to do things of their own accord. For instance, it is your law to come with more or less regularity to church every Sunday afternoon. Your law does not come, but you come; it is your mode of action to come. God was infinitely wise at the start, and has seen no reason to change a single plan of His. We have to study His laws to understand how best to get along. We may go to the fire

to warm ourselves. That is what God intended. If we put our hand into the fire, it burns our hand, whether we are angel or devil, and it depends entirely upon us whether we choose to do it or not. God's plan is that the fire shall burn under those circumstances. Somebody may say, "Suppose I should meet with an accident and come in contact with fire, God ought to prevent the fire from burning *then*." If He should prevent the fire from burning under such circumstances, it would be a miracle, which would be a violation of His laws.

November 15

We are every one of us to stand before God. When? *Now!* How? By our choices. Our account is being written. Do you like what you are writing? If you do not, go and change it. Co-work with Him so that without regard to anybody appreciating you in the least you will say, "Yes! increasing and intense interest in the Eternal Father is what I want," so that when the record is at last made up it shall be said, "Thou art my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."

November 16

Those who are not economical in this world are doing the wrong thing. If people would begin life by laying up five cents a day even, they would find it would make a great difference in their future comfort and happiness.

November 17

Suppose that a large area of land is surrounded by a high wall in which there are several apertures, through which various persons are looking. One person sees simply a collection of trees. Some one looking through an aperture some distance away from the first person sees only a plain and a pond. Still another person sees from his point of view nothing of the plain and pond, but a hill and a valley. So all around the area, every one sees something entirely unlike the views of the others. God Himself sees only the *whole* area.

This is precisely the same in regard to truth. We open our eyes to the light and see according to our standing-point at the time and according to our ability. We do not create the landscape; it is there before

us and everyone sees according to his point of view and his ability. We open our intellectual and moral eyes, and we are compelled to see what is before us, and we necessarily see differently. If the man who saw the plain and the pond in the landscape could change places with the one who saw the hill and the valley, he would see that they were both right. He would not only see the plain and pond, but add the hill and valley.

We must remember that our neighbor's view has an element of truth in it, although it may not give a complete idea of the view. While we may believe that our ideas on a subject are correct, we must remember that our neighbor sees according to his point of view and according to his ability. I am sometimes surprised that some people call themselves philanthropists when they are so narrow and bigoted. How many people become scolds because they cannot understand the one little fact that two people cannot see exactly alike!

If we would be Christians in this world, let us not trouble ourselves about people's beliefs or theologies, but let us aid them in controlling their tempers, in trying to make

their lives sweeter and truer. You can depend upon it that in this way the Holy Spirit will enter their hearts, when all logic and argument would have failed.

November 18

If friendship had been upon a more elevated plane, people would understand love to God better; but there has been so much sentiment called friendship, people are apt to think that religion consists of tremendous emotion and religious excitement. Love will go to the stake if need be; will die for another. Real interest does not depend upon emotion.

November 19

It is easier for a camel to go through the Needle's Eye than for a man who is always looking after himself to be a true citizen of the kingdom of heaven.

November 20

There is nothing which requires more patience, meekness and generosity than in bearing with scolding people. They are

in the world to perfect others. How are we to become perfect in patience, to be forbearing, unless we have such people? Let us then be glad if we be crucified forty times a day.

November 21

The good Father provides us with a spiritual gymnasium in the circumstances and conditions of life, and instead of becoming stronger, grander, nobler, and being perfected by suffering, we are apt to cry out as the child does in learning its lessons, "I don't want to practice this or that," and so we become just as babyish as the children are, instead of rising into a noble manhood.

November 22

We have often confused the meaning of the word "Piety," or love to God, with something else, and made it mean one thing in one place and another thing in another place. Love is love, whether applied to to an enemy, a friend or God.

November 23

Just in proportion as we are true children of God, we shall have reason for saying that we have confidence in the plan He has laid, and shall have more and more confidence until we graduate from this world into the next.

November 24

To give one's life is not simply dying upon the cross at a certain time. It is every moment devoting one's self to the well-being, the actual improvement of every person with whom one comes in contact. Whoever came in contact with Jesus became the better for it. He was the magnet of the world drawing all people to Him.

November 25

People with violent tempers are apt to say, "Well, I am as God made me." No, you are not. God gave you the capital of energy, and you have turned it into temper.

November 26

Every gift of God is a rap at the heart asking us to admit Him. If we do, then our thankfulness for His gifts amounts to something. These thanksgiving people dwell on the very borders of heaven.

November 27

Let us consider a little the gifts of God. When we wake up in the morning let us realize that He has given us the sunshine, the atmosphere to breathe, water to drink. At first we will say, "Father, I am glad." Then we will go on and tell Him we are thankful. And when we can look into the Infinite Heart and feel it going out to our own, then we are one with Him.

November 28

We have found that merely having a religion, a creed, or "reading our titles clear to mansions in the skies," is not sufficient. We have gone back to Christ. We are sitting at His feet and learning that the one who loses his life in service to others finds it.

November 29

Let us ask for what we may, God can give us only what we are capable of receiving.

November 30

Friendship implies response, but we should not look for the response, the appreciation. It should be — I for thee, and thou for me; each looking out for the other. If there had been more of this definite, unselfish relation between mortals, people would understand better a love relation with God.

December 1

People say they cannot comprehend the Infinite. Comprehend the Infinite! Of course not. But just listen to His voice. There is not a man, women or child who has not heard it. Respond to it. *Do* His will. Trust Him. The more you do His will the more you know Him. The more you trust Him the *more* you will do so.

December 2

If, instead of arguing about creeds, and rituals, and all that sort of thing, the spirit of Christ had been understood and adopted by people, the millenium would have come long ago.

December 3

Suppose you and I, led only by the spirit of Christ, say, no foreigner shall ever

have occasion to say we have not done exactly as though Christ were at our elbow, and the Father were looking right into our hearts to see how we acted toward His children. Suppose we also regard different denominations in the same light. Let us not only recognize their peculiarities, but also their honesty and whatever is beautiful and sweet and Christian. Prejudice will then pass away.

December 4

Let us avoid prejudices in connection with political parties. Why not recognize the spirit of the man who takes this or that ground because it is the best course, he believes, for his country to pursue? If a man deposits his vote conscientiously, though he be alone, why not recognize him as a true patriot? Honor him, because he is loyal to his position.

December 5

When we discover that God, the great, intelligent, affectionate Being, loves every one of us as individuals, then we are brought into a condition in which we know what it is to say "Our Father."

December 6

It is a good thing, once in a while, to be reminded of all the blessings we enjoy. We are rather apt to be indifferent to them. We fail to realize what these constant gifts are. They are so common, so constant, given to the thankful and unthankful, to those who work with or against Him, that we lose the elevation which ought to come from true thankfulness for them all.

December 7

God cannot prevent the mischief which people bring upon themselves by their own doings, but He can and does over-rule it.

December 8

Loving God and loving man bring into light the virtues of people. Selfishness, on the other hand, not only brings to the light the failures of people, but creates in the imagination other failures.

December 9

Gratitude is more than gladness; more than thankfulness. It is a real apprecia-

tion of the gift bestowed and a sending out of one's heart to the giver.

December 10

Look at God's picture-gallery! We look upon a sunset and are stirred by it. Everything which the Infinite Father touches is full of grace and beauty, and brings joy and gladness to His children.

December 11

How beautiful the Common looks in the winter season with the sun shining on the trees covered with snow and frost! People are apt to forget the Author of the sun, and they do not know how much they lose by not realizing that He gives it. A rose is beautiful that is bought; but a rose that is given me by a friend has much more beauty and joy in it.

December 12

Did you ever notice the beauty of frosted windows? We can see on them fern-leaves, trees, all sorts of things, made beautiful with the sun gleaming upon them. Did you ever think that the Infinite Father, busy

as He is, looking after that enormous sun, has plenty of time and a wonderful amount of inclination to look after His children going through the streets — the poorest and the richest — and so gives them this marvellous tracery of art because they are His children?

December 13

Suppose we were made blind. Think of it! No more starlit nights, no more frosted windows, no more sunsets. Would we not beg of Him to lift the veil? And suppose He should, and all these beauties should pass before us. Could we help the flood of gratitude we should have? Well, why not now? Let us take advantage of this time to thank Him for all He gives us.

December 14

People cheat themselves out of a great deal by dreaming away about what they want instead of fully realizing all they have.

December 15

The legacy which I care to leave is the building up of individual characters, not by

dwelling upon the importance of *character*, but by filling all with the desire to *do* God's will.

December 16

The rap at the door comes in some way to every one of us, if only through our love for a canary bird. We must have some loved object to lead us up to Infinite Love.

December 17

We must learn to trust God; to have confidence in Him. You say, "How can you call Him good? Why does he permit all the hardships?" How can God, at the same moment, give you eyesight, hearing, reasoning, give you all the pleasures of society, all the enjoyments of affection, all the delights of nature, the growth we have every moment, and, at the same moment, do us injury or be indifferent to us?

December 18

Just in proportion as we are intensely interested in a cause, in our family, in anything, it is not self-sacrifice, but our *joy* to

work for them. The person who really loves is on the lookout for little things as well as large things, in the interest of the one loved, and it is his privilege to supply them.

December 19

It is he that *doeth* the Father's will who knows the meaning of it. If you have been merciless and begin to exercise the spirit of mercy, do you not begin to experience an amount of joy and peace you have never had before?

December 20

Why does God care anything about the praise of mortals? If you and I were looking upon an army of ants, or a swarm of bees, I think we should be quite indifferent as to their opinion of us. In size, we are very much less, in the sight of God, than these ants and bees are in our sight. Then why does God care anything about our opinion of Him? We say He is infinite — boundless in every direction. Because He is boundless, His love is immeasurable. His interest in us is intense,

and it is because of this interest that He desires that we should have an intense interest in Him.

December 21

We should not shrink from any suffering that will make us exactly Christ-like. He said, "If any man will come after me, let him take up his cross and follow me."

December 22

One of the greatest mistakes people make is judging whole characters by single traits.

December 23

Here are two persons. One is filled with selfishness — he only exists. The other is filled with love to God and his neighbor — he lives. Just in proportion as a man lives for selfishness he is filled with the kingdom of hell. Just in proportion as he lives for others, he is full of the kingdom of heaven; full of peace and gladness. It is impossible for a man to live a life of ser-

vice and not find himself having a heavenly life.

December 24

Just in proportion as we get the spirit of Christ and try to give it to the members of the family, to every one with whom we come in contact, we know what Christ meant by saying, "As the Father sent me into the world, so send I you into the world."

December 25

The morning light is breaking. Christ is really entering the minds and hearts of the people whether they know it or not.

December 26

Instead of saying we will lay aside this or that sin, if we will give our hearts to God we shall be purified by the Love Spirit. A man cannot be a drunkard and love God with all his heart. The moment the motive is changed from self to God he need not sign the pledge; intemperance is forgotten; it is a necessary result of loving God with all your heart.

December 27

If you love God with all your heart, you must love His children. If you purify the fountain the streams will be pure; selfishness gives place to love.

December 28

It is not the creed; it is not the ritual; it is not being a Unitarian; it is not being a Trinitarian. It is whether you and I have found Jesus to be the Lamb who has taken away the sin of our hearts, as manifested by the tone of our voices, our patience and forbearance, and doing the right thing on all occasions, not for our own sakes, but because it should be our meat and our drink to serve others.

December 29

Do you love the Father or are you among the indifferent? Do you, down in your heart of hearts, care enough for Him to do certain things, not to go to heaven, but just because He asks you? Are you ready to say, "Certainly, Father, my meat and my drink shall be what you want me

to do?" If you are, then you are qualified to be a citizen of the heavenly kingdom to be established on this earth.

December 30

The old ideas of God in the past, through which He was so fearfully misrepresented, are passing away. It was impossible to go to such a Being like little children, and know that He was ours, and we His, in any tender sense of the word. Just in proportion as the false ideas of God are removed, we shall love Him. God is seeking our love that He may have opportunity to serve us more and more, and lift us up to the height for which He created us.

December 31

What kind of an account with God are you writing to-day? Are you of the selfish sort? Are you leading a life in the home where your tone of voice, your manner, your disposition, your influence, are all such as will raise discord, and you will reap a harvest in the same kind?

On the other hand, are you doing that which brings down a benediction? Are

you of that sort that every child turns to you, every sinner turns to you for help and sympathy, and everybody who wants a companion is drawn to you? Are you a peace-maker? Your account is being written, and if of this latter kind, a blessed record it is, and you are entering into the "joy and peace of our Lord."

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